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Demolition gets underway in downtown Vinton to remove fire-damaged structures



PHOTOS BY DEBBIE ADAMS

Demolition begins at 103 East Lee Avenue in downtown Vinton, previously home to Edward Jones Investments before last summer's devastating fire.

Debbie Adams
dadams@ourvalley.com

On July 2, 2022, a devastating fire in the heart of downtown Vinton destroyed the historic D.R. Music store and severely damaged several adjacent businesses.

Roanoke County Fire Marshal Brian Simmons said that the fire was one of the most intense commercial fires Roanoke County Fire & Rescue has been called upon to fight. Damages were estimated at \$1.5 million.

The building housing D.R. Music was nearly a century old, built in 1930.

It was originally the home to White Front Pharmacy, owned by Kenneth Furbush. The pharmacy had occupied the building beginning in the 1930s into the 1950s.

Due to the extensive damage sustained by D.R. Music and the collapse of its roof, the

primary structure, located at 101 East Lee Avenue, was determined to pose a public hazard and was ordered by the Roanoke County Building Official's Office to be taken down that very day.

Demolition experts from W.E.L. Environmental Services arrived on-site

early that morning to prepare for taking down the music store. The building was demolished and in the following weeks debris was removed from the site, fencing was added for safety purposes, and consultations began on what would happen to the remaining structures on

East Lee and Pollard Street impacted by the fire.

Plans were recently announced to demolish several remaining buildings beginning on April 10; road closures were announced by the Town of Vinton. The demolition date was

See Demolition page 3

Pok-E-Joe's BBQ Vinton officially opens with Chamber ribbon-cutting ceremony



Pok-E-Joe's Vinton officially opened on April 4 with a ribbon-cutting ceremony with the Vinton Area Chamber of Commerce, Town Council, Chamber members, town staff, restaurant staff, and family. Fran and Cory Welch (center) prepare to cut the ribbon.



The Pok-E-Joe's staff – the restaurant plans to hire about 40 employees.

PHOTOS BY DEBBIE ADAMS

Debbie Adams
dadams@ourvalley.com

A large crowd with beaming smiles on their faces gathered on April 4 for the official opening of the new Pok-E-Joe's

Vinton BBQ restaurant. Owner Cory Welch, his wife Fran, and their family, along with restaurant staff, Vinton Town Council members, town staff, and members of the Vinton Area Chamber of Commerce,

cut the ribbon at the grand opening celebration. There was plenty to smile about other than the beautiful sunny day, as the aroma of smoked BBQ enveloped the restaurant, inside and out.

Mayor Brad Grose welcomed the Welch family to Vinton (although Welch is a Vinton native and William Byrd

See Pok-e-Joe's page 5



PHOTO BY DEBBIE ADAMS

Woman's Club member Vicki Newburn and Ethan Dailey plant pinwheels at the Vinton Municipal building.

Vinton Woman's Club, Vinton Police plant Pinwheel Garden to raise awareness of child abuse

The Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC) Vinton Woman's Club and the Vinton Police Department partnered on March 30 to plant a blue and silver pinwheel garden in front of the Municipal Building to promote the month of April as National Child Abuse Prevention Month.

The purpose of the annual Pinwheel Garden is to raise awareness of child abuse in the United States and to promote

healthy childhoods. Similar gardens are being planted across the country this month.

The pinwheel was introduced in 2008 as the official symbol of great childhoods and to remind the community that all children deserve to be happy and healthy.

Vinton Town Council issued a proclamation recognizing April 2023 as National Child Abuse Prevention Month at the meeting on April 4.

The proclamation said in part, "Whereas our children are our most valuable resource and will shape the future of the Vinton community; and whereas, child abuse is considered to be one of our nation's most serious public health problems, and the majority of child abuse cases stem from situations and conditions that are preventable in an engaged and supportive community, we acknowledge that we must work together as a community to increase

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See Woman's Club page 3

Mount Pleasant Elementary celebrates ‘One School, One Book’ with lemonade and ‘pie-ing’



Students at Mount Pleasant Elementary raised \$891 for the SPCA as part of the “One School, One Book” celebration.



At the Mount Pleasant book assembly, the school custodian and cafeteria manager graciously agreed to being “pied” by winning students.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF LYNEZ HUMPHRIES
 Deb’s Lemonade stopped by Mount Pleasant Elementary to support the “One School, One Book” reading program.

By Lynez Humphries and Debbie Adams

Students at Mount Pleasant Elementary School (MPE) celebrated completion of their “One School, One Book” reading program with a special book assembly on March 24.

According to Lynez Humphries, librarian/media specialist/computer coordinator at Mount Pleasant, the entire school read “The Lemonade War” by Jacqueline Davies during March. In the book, two siblings set out to see who can sell the most lemonade

one summer and learn some principles of economics and finance along the way.

The school’s SCA sold lemonade the week before the assembly to raise money for the SPCA (similar to what happens in the book), in a friendly, boys vs. girls competition to see who could sell the most.

At the March 24 assembly, they presented a check to the SPCA for an amazing \$891.

As part of the celebration, several students participated in some “lemon-themed” minute-to-win-it games. In addition, the school custodian and

cafeteria manager (who are siblings— just like in the book) were “pied” by the girls who won the contest.

To top it all off, all teachers, staff, and students were able to get a cup of lemonade from the Deb’s Lemonade truck that stopped by after the assembly.

The purpose of “One School, One Book” is to reinforce reading instruction, increase parental involvement, bridge the home-school connection and build a community of readers. Each student receives a copy of the same book which is read both at school and at home as a family.

Heroes volunteer here: Vinton salutes its First Aid Crew – Sarah Garza

Debbie Adams
 dadams@ourvalley.com

The Town of Vinton and The Vinton Messenger are saluting members of the Vinton First Aid Crew (VFAC).

“We are truly blessed to have the Vinton First Aid Crew in our town,” says Vinton Mayor Brad Grose. “The crew has a long history of service to the residents of Vinton and the surrounding area. Many of our citizens have amazing stories about the wonderful service provided to them by the devoted members of the crew.”

This week’s featured volunteer is Sarah Garza. She has been a volunteer on the VFAC for five years, an EMT for seven years, and obtained her Paramedic certification this year. She started off volunteering for the Christiansburg Rescue Squad.

Garza says she is “a Marine Corps brat” from North Carolina. She has lived in Hawaii and Italy and loves “to travel as much as I can.”

She has always volunteered in the communities where she has lived— for Habitat for Humanity, Christmas

Cheer, food drives, and Toys for Tots, but she wanted to go further in the ways she could help others. That led her to joining the First Aid Crew.

Before the pandemic, Garza was a chef at Evie’s Bistro and Bakery and did “Garde Mangier” duties at the Bloom restaurant in Wasena. She also did a stint as a COVID research technician at Virginia Tech. She is now a full-time Paramedic.

Garza’s parents live in North Carolina. Her “last” grandmother is currently in the ICU— “all prayers would be appreciated.” She also has a 10-year-old cat “that I love.”

As for her spare time, Garza says that although she is no longer cooking as a day job, she still enjoys cooking for her friends. She also likes to garden and plays rugby with Roanoke Woman’s Rugby.

“A common trait among individual members of the Vinton First Aid Crew is their desire to serve their fellow man,” Mayor Grose said. “The crew offers an opportunity to serve, and it also provides valuable medical training that can truly be lifesaving. There is a strong sense of camaraderie and family in the crew that is rarely duplicated in organizations of its size.

“The citizens of Vinton can rest assured that they will always receive professional and caring service from the dedicated members of our Vinton First Aid Crew.”

Thank you for your service, Sarah Garza!



COURTESY OF SARAH GARZA

Vinton First Aid Crew Volunteer Sarah Garza

VINTON HISTORY: ARTIST RUTH RICHARDS

By Vinton History Museum intern Alyssa Moorman

Ruth Richards, a Vinton native, had many talents. She made beautiful hand-sewn quilts as well as deliciously baked and well-decorated cakes.

She began her art career in her mid-30s. She took lessons from several teachers and quickly developed her skills as a painter. She painted numerous subjects including portraits of her daughters and grandchildren. However, she favored landscapes.

As a former volunteer at the Vinton History Museum, Richards dedicated many hours and made countless donations and contributions to the museum. The museum is fortunate to have two of her landscapes, “Mill Mountain Toll Gate Bridge” and “The Old



“The Old Woodshed” by Ruth Richards

Woodshed,” on display. These paintings drip with saturation of warm, bright colors. She delicately balances the washes of greens with rich teals and hints of soft pinks and purples. Richards’ ability to capture golden sunshine and dapples of broken light appears effortless.

When she passed away at age 97, Ruth Richards was still painting. One of her

children, JoAnn Newman, is a current volunteer with the museum.

Visit the museum to see these cheerful paintings and other artifacts including additional landscape paintings, colorful quilts, and floral decor and dinnerware. Hours are Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and every first Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF VINTON HISTORY MUSEUM
 “Mill Mountain Toll Gate Bridge” painted by artist Ruth Richards is on display at the Vinton History Museum.

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Women's Club

from page 1

awareness about child abuse and how we can prevent it, because prevention remains the best defense for our children. Displaying pinwheels during the month of April will serve as a positive reminder that together we can prevent child abuse and neglect and keep our children safe."

The GFWC is celebrating 131 years of service and volunteering in all 50 states and more than a dozen countries, working locally to create changes in the lives of others through volunteer service.

The clubs have earned a reputation as a powerful force against domestic violence. In 2008, the GFWC adopted as their signature project working to bring hope to victims and survivors of domestic violence and abuse. Each year over 4.1 million referrals are made to child protection agencies involving 7.4 million children. A report of child abuse is reported every 10 seconds. Neglect is the No. 1 form of abuse. The goal of the GFWC is to "Step Up, Stand Up, Speak Up, Report It."

Submitted by GFWC Vinton Woman's Club



PHOTO BY DEBBIE ADAMS

Members of the Vinton Woman's Club, the Vinton Police Department, and town officials and staff planted pinwheels at the Municipal Building to promote National Child Abuse Prevention Month. Pictured are (from left): front row, Mayor Brad Grose, Ardy Kidd, Vicki Newburn with Ethan Dailey, Police Chief Fabricio Drumond, Kathryn Sowers, Patti Fezell, Town Manager Pete Peters, Assistant Town Manager Cody Sexton, Finance Dept. Treasurer Administrator Debra McKinney and Police Dept. Records Manager Ginny Rhodes; standing behind the banner are Judy Banik, Town Council member Laurie Mullins, and Camilla Cabaniss.

Demolition

from page 1



PHOTOS BY DEBBIE ADAMS

Demolition begins at 103 East Lee Avenue in downtown Vinton, previously home to Edward Jones Investments before last summer's devastating fire.

moved up by contractors to Monday, April 3, and the town scurried to make citizens and motorists aware of changes in traffic patterns and detours.

And there were road closures galore downtown with the demolition underway and a previously scheduled utility connection project for a new business on South Pollard, but traffic moved smoothly throughout the day due to the efforts of town staff.

The 24-man crew from W.E.L. Environmental Services began the project on April 3 with demolition of 103 East Lee Avenue, the former location of Edward Jones Investments on the ground floor, run by financial advisor George Lester, and a second-floor apartment. Most of the morning was spent removing brick, beams, windows, signage, and other structural debris from the two floors that was then discarded into a dump truck to be hauled away.

It was a poignant scene with memories of the fire last summer engulfing D.R. Music and now another historic building being removed from the landscape of downtown Vinton.

Remnants from the apartment above the Edward Jones office were still visible from the street— including a man's suit jacket still hanging on a rack, a huge Teddy bear, and a Christmas tree.

Three other properties will be demolished, 107 East Lee (Rustic Creations), 206 South Pollard (Faith's Hair Studio) and 208 South Pollard (Anita's Alterations). Up to seven structures may be demolished in total after further evaluation of adjacent properties during the demolition process.

The Edward Jones Investments, Faith's Hair Studio, and Anita's Alterations buildings were all constructed in 1920.

In a press release announcing the road closures to the public, Town Manager Pete Peters said, "Many of the buildings share walls which can cause each subsequent building to be structurally affected when the previous is torn down. The Town of Vinton is working with local property owners to facilitate timely and safe remediation of the area."

The Town of Vinton does not own the property, but is working with the property owners, nearby businesses, and private contractors to keep the project on track and provide accurate information about the process. Property owners are currently exploring plans for redevelopment of the lots.

The demolition is being conducted and paid for by the owners of the properties and their insurance companies, not the town.

"The town has been working with involved parties since day one of the fire and we will continue to assist with this process to make it as safe and speedy as possible. Public safety is our utmost priority," said Peters. "We appreciate everyone's patience and optimism while we get closer to rehabilitating this corner of our downtown."

Both lanes of the 100 block of East Lee Avenue were closed on April 3 during the initial demolition process;

the westbound lane was to reopen on April 4. Demolition is expected to last four to six weeks to ensure thorough removal of unsafe structures and debris, although the Dogwood Festival and Parade scheduled for April 28-29 are being taken into consideration.

Businesses along E. Lee Avenue and in the immediate area will remain open and will be accessible while the demolition is underway and free public parking will be available at the Vinton Farmers Market and Vinton Baptist Church.

"This event was tough for our community, and I want to express how sorry I am for D.R. Music, the other affected businesses, and the residents," said Mayor Brad Grose. "I hope this is an opportunity for Vinton to make the most of a bad situation to build back and make this corner of our downtown more vibrant than ever."

Some businesses directly affected by the fire have relocated to permanent addresses and are still in operation. D.R. Music is now located at 128 N. Pollard and Rustic Creations relocated to 116 S. Poplar Street. The George Lester Edward Jones Investments office is currently located at 10 Walnut Avenue (behind the fire station), with plans to eventually return to their location on E. Lee Avenue.

Here is a recap of the timeline from the day of the fire by Roanoke County Fire and Rescue Chief Travis Griffith:

"At 1:54 a.m. on July 2, a call came into the Roanoke County Communications center stating that there is a building on fire with flames coming from the windows."

At 1:56 a.m. a Vinton police officer arrived and reported heavy fire and smoke coming from D.R. Music. Wagon 2 and Medic 23 from the Vinton Station, along with the Vinton Police Department, arrived and made the decision to split the crews to notify and evacuate residents at 103 East Lee Avenue and 206 South Pollard St.

At 2:01, the request was made to Roanoke City for assistance, knowing this was going to be a prolonged event and would require numerous resources.

By 2:11 a.m., all occupants from the nearby exposures were accounted for and were safe. This was due in part to the quick thinking and hard work of initial arriving personnel—police and fire crews. During this time, suppression efforts were being made on the D.R. Music building as well as trying to prevent fire spread to the other exposures.

By 3:06 a.m. the decision was made to pull all personnel out of the buildings and to use ladder trucks to provide master streams for fire suppression. Fourteen minutes later there was a catastrophic collapse in the D.R. Music location as the 2nd floor collapsed onto the first floor. Through coordinated efforts of all personnel on scene, the fire was determined to be knocked down at 5:54 a.m.

The effort involved six fire engines, three ladder trucks, five ambulances, numerous supervisors, and 50-60 personnel from Roanoke County



PHOTO COURTESY OF ROANOKE COUNTY

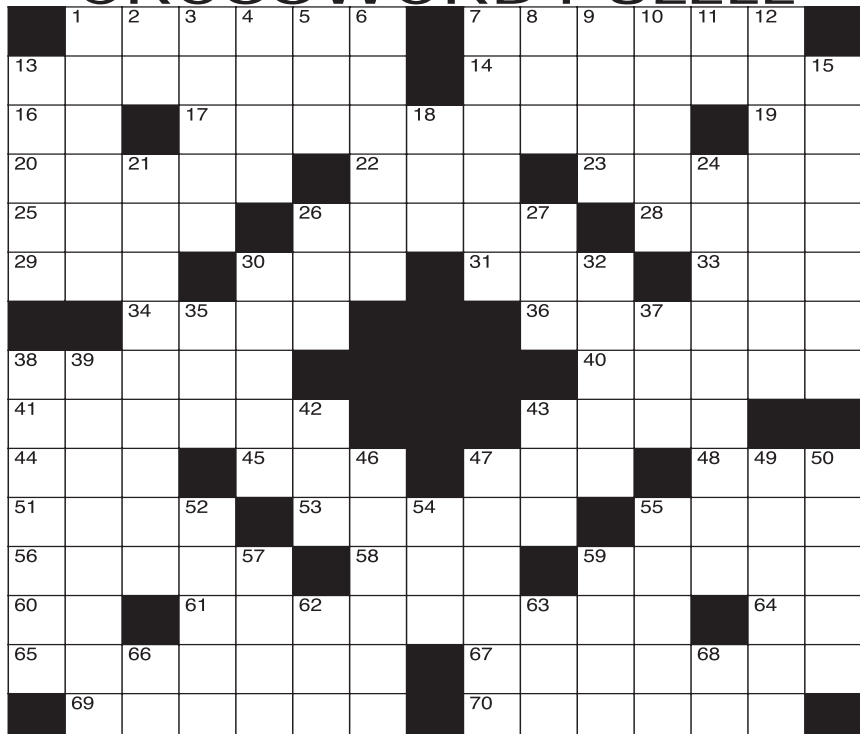
Edward Jones Investments and D.R. Music on East Lee Avenue in Vinton prior to the July 2, 2022 fire.

and Roanoke City, in addition to law enforcement personnel, rescue squad members, Public Works employees, town and county staff, and local government officials.

"Regional cooperation helped make this a successful outcome with no injuries to residents or firefighters," Griffin noted.

Now the rebuilding process is set to begin.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



CLUES ACROSS

- Colas
- Single-celled animals
- The rear car of a train
- Endangered
- It cools your home
- Helper
- "The First State"
- More aged
- Partner to cheese
- Type of wrap
- From a distance
- Satisfies
- "Dallas Buyers' Club" actor Jared
- God of battle (Scandinavian)
- Cooking utensil
- Soviet Socialist Republic
- Able to perform
- Big man on campus
- Second epoch of the Tertiary period
- Porticos
- Alban and Peter are two
- Gets up
- Humble request for help
- One-thousandth of an inch (abbr.)
- White poplar
- Unhappy
- Hint or indication
- A way to plead
- Digits
- Broadway actress Daisy
- Jewish calendar month
- Author Gore
- Peacock network
- White poplar
- Promotional material
- A period of calm
- Take too much
- Emit energy
- Something you can take
- Mended with yarn
- Inconsistent

CLUES DOWN

- Calm down
- One quintillion bytes (abbr.)
- One who pretends
- Hang glide
- Distinctive practice
- Mariner
- Peaks
- Queens ballplayer
- Geological times
- Twofold
- Atomic #13
- Tranquillizing
- Metric weight unit
- Indicates
- Unwanted rodent
- Partly cooked with hot water
- One who can be recommended
- Resembles a bag or pouch
- Midway between south and southeast
- Sets up for a photo
- California white oak
- More (Spanish)
- After B
- Decorated tea urn
- Island
- Car mechanics group
- Wordplay joke
- Cut a rug
- Prickly plant
- A way to plead
- Speech in praise of a deceased person
- European buzzard
- Influential linguist
- West African languages
- Siske's partner
- Skinny
- Oblong pulp
- Consumed
- Small, mischievous sprite
- Powerful lawyer
- Indicates position

FROM THE PULPIT

Living Out 'The Fruit of the Spirit'— Peace

Pastor Bryan Crouch
Lynn Haven Baptist Church

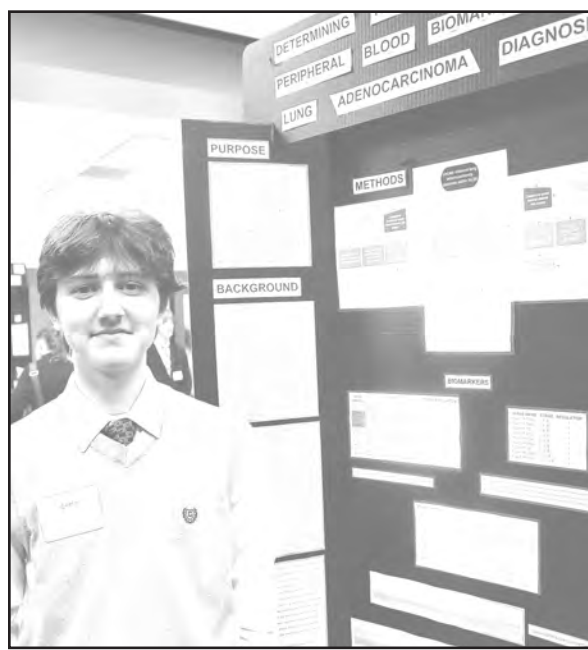
We have been studying Galatians 5:22-25, "The Fruit of the Spirit," in recent weeks at Lynn Haven Baptist Church. The "fruit" includes love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, faithfulness and self-control.

Wouldn't it be nice to have absolute peace in our lives? Did you realize that the expectation of a true believer in Jesus Christ is the possession, benefit, and use of all aspects of "The Fruit of the Spirit," including peace.

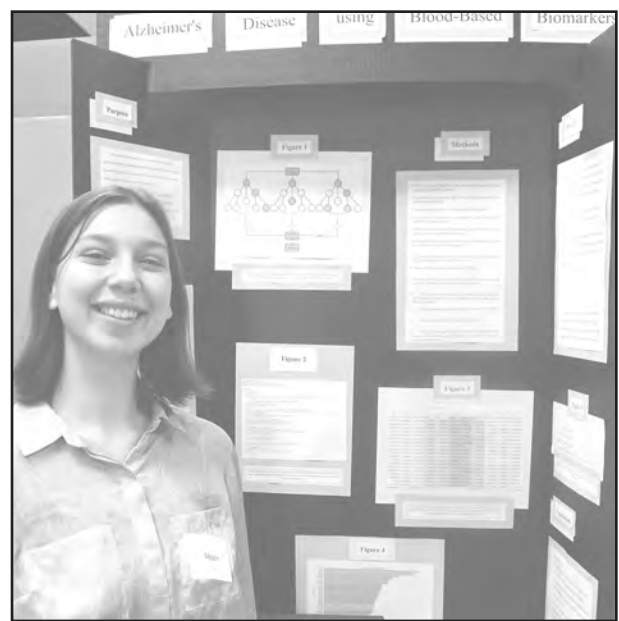
Philippians 4:4-7 reminds us to rejoice in the Lord always letting our gentle spirit be known to all people. We are not to be anxious or worried about anything, but in everything [every

circumstance and situation] by prayer and petition with thanksgiving, continue to make our [specific] requests known to God. then... the peace of God [that peace which reassures the heart] which transcends all understanding, will be ours to cherish!

The Bible is full of if-then statements. Meaning "if" we do this/than "then" this will happen. This rule applies to both good and bad things in our life. IF we allow anxiety and worry to control our thoughts, then we are cheating ourselves of the peace in our lives that we long for so much. Verses 8-9 tell us the secret to our success. Again, if we focus on the right things in our lives then (v.9) the God [who is the source] of peace and well being will be with you.



Yakob Griffin placed first in Computational Biology 3 at the Western Virginia Regional Science Fair



Maggie Parkhurst placed first in Computational Biology 4 at the Western Virginia Regional Science Fair.

PHOTOS COURTESY RVGS

William Byrd students win Regional Science Fair awards

Several William Byrd High School students placed in the Western Virginia Regional Science Fair held on March 11 at Roanoke College. Some are students at both

WBHS and the Roanoke Valley Governor's School (RVGS).

Yakob Griffin won first place in Computational Biology for his project "ProjectTitle". He is a junior at Byrd and at the Roanoke Valley Governor's School. He also won the U.S. Air Force Award.

Maggie Parkhurst won first place in Computational Biology for her project "ProjectTitle". She is a senior at WBHS and RVGS.

Jenny Nguyen and Caitlin Bishop won second place in Biomedical & Behavioral Sciences for their project "The Impact of Diet and Exercise on

Brain Plasticity Through Memory Games. They are juniors at WBHS.

Wyatt Bowles won third place in Biomedical and Behavioral Sciences for his project "The Effect of Limiting Speech Reading on Auditory Comprehension and Retention. He is a sophomore at William Byrd. He also won a special award presented by the American Psychological Association.

Eva Brown won third place in Chemistry for her project "The Effectiveness of Different Sun Protection Factor on Blocking Ultraviolet Radiation." She is a junior at WBHS.

Blake Glover won third place in Engineering and Physics for his project "A Sticky Situation: The Effects of Pine Tar on Travel Distance of a Baseball." He is a junior at WBHS. He also won the Yale Science and Engineering Association Award.

Meera Raichura won second place in Plant Sciences for her project "The Effects of Neodymium Magnets on Plant Growth and Germination." She is a junior at William Byrd.

Mark Levy, director of the RVGS, is the director of the Regional Fair.

The Vinton Messenger

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Vinton Wesleyan hosting Super Saturday Easter Egg Hunt

Vinton Wesleyan Church will host its Super Saturday Easter Egg Hunt on April 8 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. for children ages 3-12.

The event includes not only the Easter Egg Hunt, but a Bible lesson, games, food, and door prizes.

The church is located at 246 Jefferson Avenue in downtown Vinton.

Call 540-345-3385 for more information.

Vinton Wesleyan also invites the public to the Easter celebration worship service on Sunday, April 9 at 10:30

a.m. Special music will be provided by the children and the adult choir will present "Easter Praise." The Easter message will be delivered by Pastor Ricardo Rodriguez.

Submitted by Vinton Wesleyan Church

BAPTIST (SOUTHERN)
MINERAL SPRINGS BAPTIST CHURCH & CHRISTIAN SCHOOL - 1030 Bible Lane, Vinton, Va. 24179. Church Phone 890-4465. Rev. Jason Gault. Sunday Services: Traditional Service, 8:45 AM, Sunday School, 10:00 AM, Contemporary Service, 11:00 AM, Evening Worship 6:00 PM, Wednesday Services: AWANA 6:30 PM, Bible Study 7:00 PM

CHRISTIAN CHURCH
BELMONT CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST), 1101 Jamison Ave. SE, Roanoke, VA 24013, 540-343-7502, Worship Services every Sunday at 11:00AM, Pastor Terry Brace. We look forward to seeing you this Sunday!

CHURCH OF CHRIST
DALE RIDGE CHURCH OF CHRIST - 7165 Cloverdale Rd., Roanoke, 24019; beside the Botetourt Athletic Club. Leave message 992-4385. Sunday Bible Study, 9:30 a.m., Worship, 10:30 a.m., Wednesday Bible Study, 6 p.m. Please come visit us in person or get to know about us first by visiting our web page: daleridge-churchofchrist.net. Updated each week with a new sermon by Mike Mazzalongo, four minutes of video showing our nearly six acres of land and our beautiful, functional inside facilities, articles, events, news from Christian sources around the world and here locally plus much, much more. See how many ways Dale Ridge is "Reaching Out There" to the Roanoke Valley with the "Good News of Jesus. By clicking on "visit us virtually" real time access to our Worship services is available via your computer, a tablet or smartphone: Just follow the instructions. We believe in the inspired Word of God which is as relevant today as it was when it was written. We believe the Holy Spirit is a gift to every Christian upon their response to the Gospel as demonstrated by the 3000 obedient souls in (Acts 2:38). We believe Jesus is the only author of our salvation. (Acts 4:12) Have you been looking for a church family that is progressive, outside the box thinkers, led by the Holy Spirit into all truth. (John 16:13). You will know we are His disciples by our love for one another. (John 13:35) Real time contact thru our website via email.

CHURCH OF CHRIST VINTON - 2107 Feather Road, Vinton. Terry Hodge, Minister, 540-890-1170. Sunday Bible Study 9:45 a.m., Sunday Morning Service 10:45 a.m., Wednesday Bible Study 10 a.m.

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ECKANKAR, THE PATH OF SPIRITUAL FREEDOM, is a simple teaching that focuses on the Light and Sound of God to help people find more love in their life. The Roanoke Eckankar Center is located at 1420 3rd St. SW, Roanoke,

VINTON

WORSHIP DIRECTORY

SICK WITH SIN
Read Psalms 37:1 through 38:22

Every one of the world's billions of people will face injury and illness in life. No one can escape pain and suffering. When we hurt, we usually seek help. We bandage wounds, take medication, visit a physician—all in an effort to gain healing.

Why aren't we as eager to cure sin? Why don't we deal with it as we do other ailments? God provided a solution for sin: repent, confess, and forsake the sin. Yet we often ignore it or let it go until it looms full-blown and potentially life-threatening (Psalm 38:5,6).

I confess my iniquity; I am troubled by my sin (Psalm 38:18).

The best time to address sin is when we first experience sin symptoms. It's best to remove a sliver before it gets infected, even though it may cause momentary discomfort. In the same way we should dig out any scrap of embedded sin before it leads to something worse.

Jesus is our Great Physician and the Bible our spiritual medicine chest. Our Divine Doctor prescribes daily doses as preventative treatment against sin.

Thought for Today: What remedy do you find today in God's Word?

Quicklook: Psalm 38:8-18

If you would like to see your church services listed here in the Vinton Messenger contact Tucker Frye at 540-473-2741 or email tfrye@ourvalley.org

VA 24016. A spiritual event is held on the 2nd Sunday of each month at 10:30 a.m. Since contracting COVID-19 may still be possible, please take the health steps that are best for you. It is appreciated that by attending you are taking responsibility for your own health. Visit www.eck-va.org, www.meetup.com/Roanoke-Spiritual-Experiences * Group* or call 540-353-5365 for other Eckankar programs and for more information about how the teachings of Eckankar can lead you to spiritual freedom.

FOURSQUARE
EVANGEL CHURCH - 2330 Hardy Road, Vinton (corner of Hardy Road and Feather Road), 540-982-3694, www.evangel4sq.com, Pastor Tim Wright. Worship Service Sunday, 10AM. Bible Study Wednesday 11AM-12PM.

LUTHERAN
ST. TIMOTHY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH, "The Church Under The Cross", 1201 Hardy Rd, Vinton VA 24179, Pastor, Rev. Dr. James B. Davis (540) 342- 1715, Sunday School 10:00am, Worship 11:00am, sttimothy1201@verizon.net.

NAZARENE
FIRST CHURCH OF NAZARENE, 728 Highland Ave., SE, Roanoke, Virginia. 342-4003. Sunday Morning Wor-

ship 10:30 a.m., Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Wednesday Night Bible Study 7 p.m.

PRESBYTERIAN
CAMPBELL MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 1130 Hardy Rd, Vinton, VA, 540-343-1842; cmcp2verizon.net Sunday school 9:45am, Worship 11:00am; Communion 1st Sundays; 2nd Sunday Session; Monday Noon Bible Study; Tuesdays & Thursdays Stretch Class 9:00am; 1st Tuesdays Deacons; Wednesday Choir 7:00pm; Monday Girl Scouts 7:00pm; 3rd Saturday Men's Breakfast 8:00am. Rev. Jonathan Moelker, pastor

UNITED METHODIST
THREE OAKS FELLOWSHIP UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - 1026 Gravel Hill Road, Vinton, Va. 540-512-8070. Pastor: Rev. Dr. Rob Colwell. Sunday School - 9:45 a.m., Worship 11 a.m.

WESLEYAN
VINTON WESLEYAN CHURCH - 246 E. Jefferson Ave., Pastor Ricardo Rodriguez, 345-3385; Sunday Worship Service 11:00 AM and 6:00 PM. Sunday School for all ages, 10:00 AM, Wednesday Night Life Ministries - Children - Awana; G-5 Youth Ministry; Adult Bible Study 6:30 PM.

Pok-e-Joe's from page 1



Vinton Mayor Brad Grose presents Fran and Cory Welch a plaque welcoming Pok-E-Joe's to Vinton.

graduate) and presented them with a plaque, and the traditional "InVinton" pins.

Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Angie Chewning said simply, "Welcome to town, Pok-E-Joe's!"

The restaurant has been doing soft opening events for the past two weeks, but now the restaurant is open for good, every day except Monday.

While they are most well-known for their BBQ

(brisket, pulled pork and chicken, ribs, wings, and sausage), they have an incredible variety of burgers, sandwiches, wraps, flatbreads, salads, and sides (think mac and cheese, fried okra, collards, sweet potato fries, pinto and baked beans, hush puppies, and more). Speaking of fried, they offer Deep Fried Oreos, banana pudding, and Texas Mud Pie. Plus, there's a Buckaroo menu of staples for the kids.

They also feature a variety of sauces with their BBQ and wings: Silverback, Mango Habanero, Sweet and Spicy, Buffalo, Alabama White, Honey Chipotle, Teriyaki, Texas Q, and Virginia Gold.

Pok-E-Joe's is located downtown in Vinyard Station at the corner of Pollard Street and Washington Avenue. The restaurant was formerly occupied by Joe Goodpies.



PHOTOS BY DEBBIE ADAMS

Pictured left to right are Vinyard Station general contractor Greg Rhodes, Pok-E-Joe's owner Cory Welch, and Vinyard Station developer Dale Wilkinson.

Original Vinyard Station developer Dale Wilkinson and contractor Greg Rhodes were on hand for the opening. Little has changed inside the restaurant from the previous business, except for the addition of a gigantic smoker for the meats.

This is the second Pok-E-Joe's location; an award-winning one has been open for several years in Boonsboro (near

Lynchburg). Welch got his start in the BBQ business with a food truck and has kept moving upward from there, purchasing the Boonsboro restaurant in 2019.

Welch says the restaurant is all about family. His wife, Fran, is in charge of Human Resources. Their daughter Kaitlyn is assistant manager; Brad Ward is kitchen manager. Welch's father-

in-law Tim Bowers is an investor.

The restaurant will have around 40 employees. They plan to offer catering and take-out.

Pok-E-Joe's hours of operation will be Tuesday through Thursday from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m., Fridays and Saturdays from 11 a.m. to midnight, and Sundays from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. The restaurant will be closed on Mondays.

Town Council reviews revenues, expenditures, CIP projects at Retreat

Debbie Adams

dadams@ourvalley.com

Vinton Town Council held its annual retreat on March 24 at the Roanoke Higher Education Center. All council members attended including Mayor Brad Grose, Vice Mayor Mike Stovall, and Council members Sabrina McCarty, Laurie Mullins, and Keith Liles. Town Manager Pete Peters emceed the all-day event.

Retreats are considered to be a powerful tool for helping local government focus on the town's core values, mission, vision, and strategies to help decision-making on a daily basis. They allow elected officials and staff members to leave behind the day-to-day routine and focus on the big picture.

In addition to Town Council members, the town's leadership team also participated in the retreat, making presentations on current, recently completed, and upcoming projects in their individual departments.

The retreat was facilitated by Charles Hartgrove, Director of the Virginia Institute of Government at the University of Virginia's Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service.

During the afternoon session, Assistant Town Manager/Treasurer Cody Sexton and Finance Director Andrew Keen reviewed year-to-date (YTD) revenue and expenditures and the draft budget overview and timeline for the FY2024 budget. Peters presented the Capital Improvement Project list — for completed, upcoming, and potential projects.

Sexton said it is fortunate that Vinton's budget is based on a diverse revenue stream. In FY23, 14% of the budget was projected to be funded by the meals tax, 10% by the state sales tax, 12% by VDOT Highway Maintenance funding, 9% by pari-mutuel taxes, with only 4% from real estate taxes and 5% from personal property taxes. Other revenue sources include the cigarette tax, communications sales and use tax, business license taxes, bank stock taxes, non-categorical aid, and a few more.

For FY23, meals taxes are projected to exceed the projected budget substantially by \$129,000; sales tax by \$299,000; and pari-mutuel taxes by \$263,000.

YTD expenditures in FY23 currently total \$7 million, rather than the \$11.3 million anticipated — that's 62% of the budget, when 75% was expected.

The town manager's recommended budget for FY24 will be presented to the Finance Committee on April 10 and to Town Council on May 2, with a public hearing scheduled for May 16.

In FY24, the pari-mutuel tax revenues may be affected by the opening of the Rose Gaming Resort in Dumfries and the Rosie's Gaming Emporium in Emporia, bringing 1,800 more HHR machines across the state. Pari-mutuel tax is collected on activity across a multi-jurisdictional pool rather than at a singular location.

So, more HHR machines elsewhere in the state means more tax money for Vinton.

Factors that may positively impact the meals tax in Vinton are the opening of Pok-E-Joe's, the Pollard 107 Restaurant, and Starbucks, and the expansion of the Dogwood restaurant into neighboring property.

As for the personnel budget, VRS rates remain unchanged for the upcoming fiscal year. Health insurance costs have remained unchanged. Initial planning indicates a possible 5% COLA for all employees for the second consecutive year.

Sixty-nine percent of the personnel budget goes to salaries; the remainder to benefits. The Public Works and Police Departments have the most employees, and thus, the highest budgets.

The Finance Department plans to maximize interest earnings on investment dollars by regularly shopping bank rates and products.

During the Capital Improvement discussion segment of the retreat, CIP projects were discussed. Projects completed in FY23 include traffic signal replacement (on Niagara, Vinyard, and Bypass), traffic signal synchronization, purchase of a wood chipper, excavator, and mini-excavator with a trailer, repairs to Garthright Bridge, much-needed AV equipment replacement at the Vinton War Memorial, purchase of new Christmas décor, replacement of fuel pump software, purchase of a Public Works generator, the Glade Creek Greenway Phase 2B match, sidewalk repairs at the history museum, the \$1.1 million paving program, and purchase of an enclosed firearms qualification trailer. Total costs were \$2.4 million.

Remaining projects for FY23 include completion of the anxiously awaited Walnut Avenue/downtown parking lot, private stormwater replacement, pool closure, sidewalk construction on Cleveland Avenue, targeted redevelopment projects involving flood prone and blighted properties, the hotel development study and site plan, the Gish Mill development incentive, South Pollard development incentives, downtown development incentives, The HIVE rehabilitation, along with Cleveland Avenue and Walnut Avenue paving. These projects total \$2.2 million.

Potential CIP projects in FY24 include Mountain View Road construction (with \$1.1 million now on hand), community park development Phase 1, replacing a trash truck, two dump trucks (with snowplows), and the streetsweeper, traffic signal replacements on Washington, Pollard, and Lee, adding Wolf Creek and Glade Creek Greenway restrooms, gateway signage, and a few others.

There was also discussion of CIP funding through ARPA funds, the Utility Funds, and/or Utility System proceeds. Council and staff will be considering the options as budget talks proceed this spring.

RECIPES OF THE WEEK

Splurge on some eggs for Easter



PHOTO BY UNSPLASH

This past week a leading egg producer in the United States announced that with the recent increase in egg prices (up some 300% in parts of the country over last year) their profits have increased by 718%.

So, if you want to splurge on Easter dinner in 2023, here are some egg dishes to put on the table.

Basic Deviled Eggs
1 dozen hard-boiled eggs
1/3 cup mayonnaise
1 Tbsp. yellow mustard
2 tsp. pickle relish
1 tsp. white vinegar
1 tsp. pickle juice
Salt and pepper to taste
Paprika to sprinkle on top

Hard boil the eggs, then peel. Slice eggs in half lengthwise. Gently squeeze the yolks into a bowl and mash with

a fork. Add mayo and mustard. Stir together. Add pickles, vinegar, and pickle juice. Stir together. Add salt and pepper to taste. Scoop mixture into egg white halves. Sprinkle paprika on top.

Basic Egg Salad
1 dozen hard boiled eggs, peeled
1/2 cup mayonnaise
1-2 Tbsp. yellow or Dijon mustard
1 tsp. Worcestershire
1 tsp. white vinegar
Optional: 1/4 cup finely chopped celery, and/or 2 Tbsp. minced onion, and/or 1/4 cup pickle relish
Salt and pepper to taste

Chop or squish boiled eggs (you can squeeze them through a cooking rack). Add the mayo, mustard, Worcestershire, vinegar, salt, and pepper. Stir gently. Serve a scoop on a lettuce leaf or on crackers or make a sandwich.



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Starter plants are now available at the Vinton Farmers' Market.



PHOTOS BY DEBBIE ADAMS

The Vinton Farmers' Market reopened on April 1 with a special treat—a visit from Deb's Lemonade.

William Byrd clarinetist performs at All District Symphonic Band



PHOTO COURTESY OF DENISE ASPELL

William Byrd Middle School student Sophie Hoagland performed with the All District Symphonic Band this year.

The William Byrd Middle School Band is proud to recognize Sophie Hoagland for making the District VI Symphonic Band this school year. According to WBMS Director of Bands Denise Aspell, "This is the highest-level ensemble possible!"

The All District band performed an entire concert after one and a half days of rehearsal at Blacksburg High School.

"Sophie is a very talented clarinetist, plays alto saxophone in jazz band, as well as performs locally in theater productions," Aspell said. "Congratulations!"

Submitted by Denise Aspell, WBMS Director of Bands

Vinton Farmers' Market opens for the season

The Vinton Farmers' Market officially opened for the 2023 season on Saturday, April 1, with hours from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Despite the blustery weather, several vendors set up under the market canopy, selling soaps, lotions, starter plants, microgreens, art, and flowers.

As a special treat, Deb's Frozen Lemonade was onsite and plans to return.

Caroline Loveland, Vinton's Community Programs Coordinator, is in charge of Farmers' Market

operations this season. Rueda Plants and Produce will return with bedding plants and produce in mid-April on Saturdays and selected weekdays—dates to be announced.

The town plans to add handsewn crafts, woodworking, dried flowers, paper craft, pet beds, breads, and other vendors as the weather warms up.

Loveland says the Roanoke County Library will be at the Vinton Farmers' Market on several

Fridays this spring and summer from 2 to 4 p.m.—June 2, June 9, July 7, July 21, August 4, and August 18.

Additionally, the library is going to host a special story time and corresponding kids' craft at 9 a.m. on May 27, July 8, and September 2.

The Fame Allstars will be performing on July 29.

Vendors may sign up for a spot by contacting Loveland at CLOVELAND@vintonva.gov.

Vinton Town Council maintains current real estate, personal property tax rates

Debbie Adams
dadams@ourvalley.com

Vinton Town Council members voted to maintain real estate and personal property tax rates at their current level for calendar year 2023 at their meeting on April 4. That's after public hearings were held on each.

The public hearings were advertised by the town beforehand to seek public input. A Notice of Public Hearing is required by state code when the annual real estate assessment minus new construction results in an increase of 1% or more.

Assistant Town Manager/Treasurer Cody Sexton reported to council that total real estate assessments increased by approximately 11.77% for calendar year 2023—a net increase of \$62.8 million. That will in turn increase the tax levy in Vinton by \$47,668.

The current rate is 7 cents per \$100 of assessed value. Real estate taxes are collected semi-annually on June 5 and December 5 in the town.

Personal property and machinery and tools tax rates for calendar year 2023 remain set at \$1 per \$100 of assessed value. There is a discount for vehicles regularly used by disabled veterans (50 cents per \$100 of assessed value). Personal property taxes are collected by May 31 on an annual basis.

Vinton Area Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Angie Chewning and Vinton Community Programs Director Chasity Barbour updated council on activities of the Chamber and upcoming events. The Chamber now has 260 members and sponsors 16 major events throughout the year. It joins the town for many smaller events such as Pizza with the Police. It also sponsors Lunch and Learn sessions. The Chamber will be hosting the annual State of the Town Address on April 6.

Chewning noted that the biennial Vinton Magazine will be coming out in the July issue of the Roanoker Magazine. The Chamber is also working on an updated print version of "Eat in Vinton" which lists menus for all Vinton restaurants who submit their information.

Chewning and Barbour talked about their partnership with RVTV in creating the "All Things Vinton" video series (available on the RVTV YouTube channel, as well as social media pages for RVTV and the Town of Vinton). These videos have become extremely popular and showcase local businesses.

Chewning also continues with Vinton Chatter on

Fox Radio 910 on the first and third Wednesday each month, promoting events and businesses in the town.

"You do a great job promoting Vinton," said Mayor Brad Grose. "The Town of Vinton and the Chamber have a great partnership. We work closer than in most communities."

Vinton First Aid Crew Chief Chris Sayre reported on the January and February actions of the crew. The volunteers serve from 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. Monday through Friday and 24 hours a day on Saturday and Sunday.

The crew responded to 139 volunteer calls in the first two months of the year. During that time period, there were 22 Second Emergency Calls (dispatched calls while they were already out on call). Last Sunday, Sayre noted that they had three calls dispatched while they were already out on a call. The volunteers handled 133 calls, the career staff, 70 calls. Ninety patients were transported to the hospital in those two months.

Sayre spoke of the unexpected loss of one of their lifetime crew members, Greg Meinel, in February due to illness.

The crew has gained five new members since the beginning of the year; currently it has about 40 members. Several members are enrolled in EMT classes around the area.

The crew's grant has been approved to replace its primary ambulance; the crew has been using a reserve ambulance from Roanoke County.

Anyone interested in joining the Vinton First Aid Crew and experiencing the rewards of giving back to the community should visit the website at <https://vintonems.org/>. Members must be 16 years of age to join but no previous training is necessary; they must be willing to work a minimum of 24 hours a month, on dates they choose for themselves.

Council issued two proclamations declaring April as National Child Abuse Prevention Month and April 9-15 as National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week.

Members of the GFWC Woman's Club of Vinton attended the meeting to accept their proclamation and thanked the town and the Vinton Police Dept. for partnering with them each April to plant a pinwheel garden at the Municipal Building to increase awareness of child abuse and steps towards its prevention. Members attending were President Judy Banik, Camilla Cabaniss, Ardy Kidd, and Kathryn Sowers.

Sowers noted that April 5 is World Autism Awareness Day and encouraged everyone to wear blue that day in support.

In other action, council adopted a resolution appropriating funds in the amount of \$285,000 for the Woodland Place Stream Bank Restoration project. This is a 50/50 match with the DEQ that will allow removal of pollutants to meet DEQ stormwater requirements. Council authorized the funds in August 2022. Shenandoah StreamWorks LLC is the contractor for the project.

Council adopted a resolution approving the 2023-2024 operating budget of the Roanoke Valley Regional Authority in the amount of \$15,913,793. The budget must be approved by all governing bodies involved, including Roanoke County, the cities of Roanoke and Salem, and the Town of Vinton.

Retiring RVRA CEO Dan Miles announced that there would be no increase in tipping fees for the town.

Council adopted a resolution setting the allocation percentage for Personal Property Tax Relief for 2023 at \$35.95 on the first \$20,000 in valuation of a vehicle. The rate was set using a state model in calculating the reimbursement rate.

Council awarded a construction bid and authorized a contract with Holt, Inc., in the amount of \$479,039 for construction of the Glade Creek Greenway Phase 2B. This stretch of the greenway will connect Gearhart Park to Walnut Avenue.

A resolution was also adopted awarding a construction bid and contract to F&B Contractors, Ltd., in the amount of \$716,973 for construction of the Walnut Avenue Bike/Pedestrian Accommodations Project from 1st Street to West Lee Avenue.

Both these projects involve grant funding so that the total cost is not borne by the town, but include matching or in-kind funding, and for one project, donations from Pathfinders for Greenways.

Town Manager Pete Peters announced that the bus shelter has been completed at Lake Drive Plaza. He thanked the Vinton Breakfast Lions Club members for their contributions to the project. Vinton now has four bus shelters.

He encouraged citizens to visit the town's website at www.vintonva.gov or social media pages to sign up for the monthly e-newsletter "All Things Vinton," which updates the community on events, government actions, and includes a "wealth" of other information.

Celebrating The Town of VINTON!


The Town of Vinton, a community nestled in the Blue Ridge Mountains, welcomes you to our community. Vinton, a town rich with history, has over the years found itself to be one of a few communities that continue to relish the past by offering an environment of a comfortable lifestyle with the feeling of being a part of a large community family. The town, with its proximity to the Blue Ridge Parkway and Smith Mountain Lake, provides many opportunities for those who wish to stop and shop at our local farmers market or one of our unique specialty shops.

If festivals are your interest, the Vinton area hosts several festivals throughout the year from the Vinton Dogwood Festival to the Vinton Fall Festival. Each festival offers its own unique atmosphere. When you are away from home it's always nice to feel as if you never left.

The Town of Vinton provides small town character with urban services and amenities located nearby. The small town atmosphere is characterized by a low crime rate; small, locally, and regionally owned businesses; and moderately priced homes. Views of the mountains and Blue Ridge Parkway abound.

Vinton represents the ideal type of community, small enough to provide a feeling of belonging, yet progressive enough to provide the facilities, services, and conveniences that are necessary to make a community feel like home to its citizens.

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American Cancer Society honors Suzanne Bell with Spirit of Relay Award

Longtime Vinton resident Suzanne Bell has received the 2022 American Cancer Society (ACS) Relay For Life Pat Flynn Spirit of Relay Award for the Southeast Region, an honor in recognition of an individual that embodies the same spirit of Relay that the “Mother of Relay” – Pat Flynn – inspired in Relay participants around the world.

When asked why Suzanne was nominated, Erika Newberry, of the local American Cancer Society staff, said, “Suzanne truly embodies the Spirit of Relay – her commitment to the American Cancer Society, no matter the many, many changes she saw over the years – is unlike any other. I knew that we needed to honor her dedication and nominated her for the award.”

Event Lead BJ Hutchison shared the following, “While walking the track at the 2021 Relay For Life of Virginia’s Blue Ridge, we came across a beautiful timeline of photos at one of the team campsites. We asked the team captain, Suzanne Bell, about the photos and she shared that they spanned the 30 years of Relay For Life in the various communities across Virginia’s Blue Ridge and that she had been involved since the very first Relay in Roanoke.”

Relay For Life was known as Making Strides

Against Cancer at the time. Founded by Dr. Gordy Klatt in Tacoma, Wash., in 1985, Relay For Life events around the world have raised nearly \$6.8 billion to help ACS end cancer for everyone. Money raised helps ACS fund and conduct breakthrough research and give cancer patients and their families the resources they need.

Relay For Life of Virginia’s Blue Ridge will be held on May 20, from 2 to 9:30 p.m., at the Salem Civic Center. To learn more about Relay For Life, how to start a team, or sponsor the event, visit www.relayforlife.org/vablueridge.

A special note from Suzanne:

“You may have experienced Relay for Life before, but it’s been a little while. Relay may look a little different than when you last participated, but the need to fight back against cancer does not. I’m inviting you to be my ‘plus one’ and ask that you register on my team, the Flower Children, by visiting RelayForLife.org/vablueridge. Together we can make a tremendous impact in the fight against cancer and support the American Cancer Society’s mission to end cancer – every cancer for everyone.”

Submitted by the American Cancer Society



Suzanne Bell

FILE PHOTO



PHOTO BY DEBBIE ADAMS

June Eanes is shown at the Vinton History Museum with an exhibit of the Eanes Family Sports Legacy.

In Remembrance of June Eanes

Debbie Adams

dadams@ourvalley.com

June McGee Eanes, 90, passed away peacefully in Naples, Fla., on March 27, 2023. A strong matriarch to a large family who was born and raised in Vinton, “Meemaw” (as she was known to most) was a volunteer at the Vinton History Museum and co-wrote a book about the town she loved so much.

Eanes graduated from UVA, loved rooting for her alma mater’s basketball and football teams, and enjoyed painting.

She was a teacher at Roanoke Catholic High School for 20 years and then spent part of her retirement working the front desk at the Floyd Ward School of Dance as she loved shaping the minds and futures of children.

Back in 2012, June wrote an article for The Vinton Messenger about her life in Vinton and her family legacy:

“What a joy it was to grow up in Vinton! If only our children and friends could know the comfort and peace we felt as we grew to know and love our hometown. Vinton was a special place—neighbors were special friends who looked over us and protected us as we played in each other’s back yards.

“My father was a councilman in the Town of Vinton for 26 years and served as mayor and vice-mayor. I didn’t know what that meant as a child. I thought everyone’s dad would serve as mayor at some time. My father

used to tell me—‘Never say anything about someone who lives in Vinton because we were all kin to each other.’ This was true.

“My husband, Duck Eanes, and I began dating in high school. There were no TVs or computer games. Boys made their own entertainment. One thing young boys seemed to enjoy was throwing rocks at the streetlights and knocking them out. Duck and a friend of his were out one night doing just that— trying to knock out streetlights. The police drove by, saw them, and picked them up. They were driven home and given a summons to court. At that time, with the form of government Vinton had, the mayor served as judge in small court cases. Mrs. Eanes dressed Duck in his ‘Sunday best’ coat and tie and went to Vinton’s court. Sure enough, there sat my father— Judge Ross McGee! It so happened that weekend was the Saturday of our first date. A small fine was paid that night, but Duck had to face my father again when he came to the house to get me for our date. You talk about being scared— Duck was an absolute wreck! It was much worse than court. I don’t know if my dad recognized Duck or not, but he never said a word to me or Duck about the streetlights. He always loved Duck as his own son. It did teach a lesson though as Duck never threw rocks at streetlights again.

“I never thought much about being the ‘Mayor’s daughter’— it was just

what my dad did, and he enjoyed it very much. I look back now and know it was a good time and one I’m proud to have known and been a part of Vinton’s growth.”

June Eanes was a star athlete. Her sport was basketball. She played center and forward at William Byrd High School and served as captain of the team. She went on to play basketball for the Independent League and on the Moosettes traveling softball team—the youngest on the team and mothered by her teammates.

June and Duck were both were good athletes before they started dating, and a shared interest in sports might have been a factor in their romance. They would pitch softball in the alley between the shop building and the main building at WBHS. Their first date was after a track meet in Charlottesville when Duck threw shot put. They started dating at the end of the school year in 1948 and dated for three years before they married. They had five children— Bunkie, Chuck, twins Margaret and Teresa, and Rose.

June was preceded in death by her father, William Ross McGee; mother, Claire Mozingo McGee; husband, Bobby “Duck” Eanes; and son, William “Bunkie” Eanes. She leaves behind loving daughters Margaret Leffell (Jeff), Teresa Atkins (Dean), and Rose Ketner (Denny); son Charles Eanes (Linda), daughter-in-law Diana Eanes, nine grandchildren, and 15 great-grandchildren.

PEOPLE, PLACES AND THINGS

By Angie Chewning

Today (April 3) has been a roller coaster of emotions, and I am sure I am not the only one.

Today the landscape of our downtown will forever be changed again!

A while back as the beginning of the end of an era caught fire, many of us stood and cried as we watched in shock.

Today, some not only relive that day but say goodbye to several other landmark buildings.

Today our “New” begins.

Today we look forward to that “New” with wonder and excitement. Today our Town rallies AGAIN. Today we are Vinton STRONG!

On another note— Two Terriers go to the Beach. Not the start



PHOTO COURTESY OF ANGIE CHEWNING

Jim Moore and Chris Teague

of a good joke on April Fool’s Day. It’s true! Two of my classmates from the William Byrd High School Class of ’85 got married. Congratulations to Jim Moore and Chris Teague!



PHOTO BY DEBBIE ADAMS

The view across Lee Avenue from the Dogwood Restaurant as Day 1 of demolition wraps up on April 3.



PHOTO COURTESY OF VINTON HISTORY MUSEUM ARCHIVES

Duck and June Eanes began dating as students at William Byrd High School.

New MLB rules are a Hit

by Brian Hoffman, Sports Editor

The new Major League Baseball season is here and the question everyone keeps asking is, "how do you like the new rules?" For the most part, it seems like most people like them.

The game is definitely moving along faster. Through the first weekend the games have been an average of 30 minutes shorter than in previous years, and they're still longer than an average basketball game so that's plenty of ballgame to watch.

With the new rules the batter has to be in that box and the pitcher has to be ready to serve it up or there will be consequences. Here's a couple observations I had in the first games of the season.

I was watching a game on opening day, and you know where they list the score, count, outs, batter and pitcher

in a corner of your television screen? Well, on opening day that bit of information also included the clock counting down for the pitcher. I found that to be extremely distracting while watching the game.

The next game I watched, on a different network, didn't have that and I really didn't pay attention to the pitch clock unless the umpire called an infraction. That was much better, in my mind, as far as enjoying the game.

And another thing. I'm watching the ESPN Sunday Night game between the Phillies and Rangers. Trea Turner of the Phillies is on first and takes off for second. He gets a great jump and surely has the base stolen, but the pitcher doesn't start his motion in time and the umpire behind the plate calls time as Turner is running for second. A "ball" is called on the batter and Turner has to go back to first.

To me, this is helping the team that was supposed to be penalized. If I'm

the pitcher I'd much rather have a ball called than have the runner advance a base. If that's how it's going to work, and I'm the pitcher, I'm going to hold the ball until the clock goes off if I think the runner got a great jump at first and won't be thrown out. Unless there are three balls on the batter at the time, I'm sending that runner back to first. That's something they're going to have to look at.

As far as the larger bases, they really don't look any larger to me while watching on TV. The Salem Red Sox had the larger bases last year and I never would have known if I hadn't known.

The bases are three inches wider on each side, and that's supposed to help the would-be base stealers because it's an extra three inches they don't have to cover. I've heard that a bunch of times but, honestly, how many times is that three inches going to make a difference? Hold your fingers three inches apart and tell me, with a straight face,

that's going to make a big difference.

Finally, I love the rule that says two fielders must be on each side of second base and have their feet in the dirt. I hated those shifts. I got so tired of seeing a batter smoke one up the middle and the shortstop is right there behind the bag, or a lefthander drilling a ball that should be a base hit, only to have a "short fielder" field it for an out. There are balls that are struck that are supposed to be hits from the time you play little league ball, and I felt like those batters were getting cheated.

Now, I heard that some teams are considering moving the leftfielder into short right when a lefthanded, "dead pull," hitter comes to the plate. That's somewhat circumventing the new rules, but apparently there's no rule against it. Hopefully, there will be next summer.

All in all, I give the new rules two thumbs up. And if one of the thumbs gets you a stolen base because the bag is three inches closer, then so be it.

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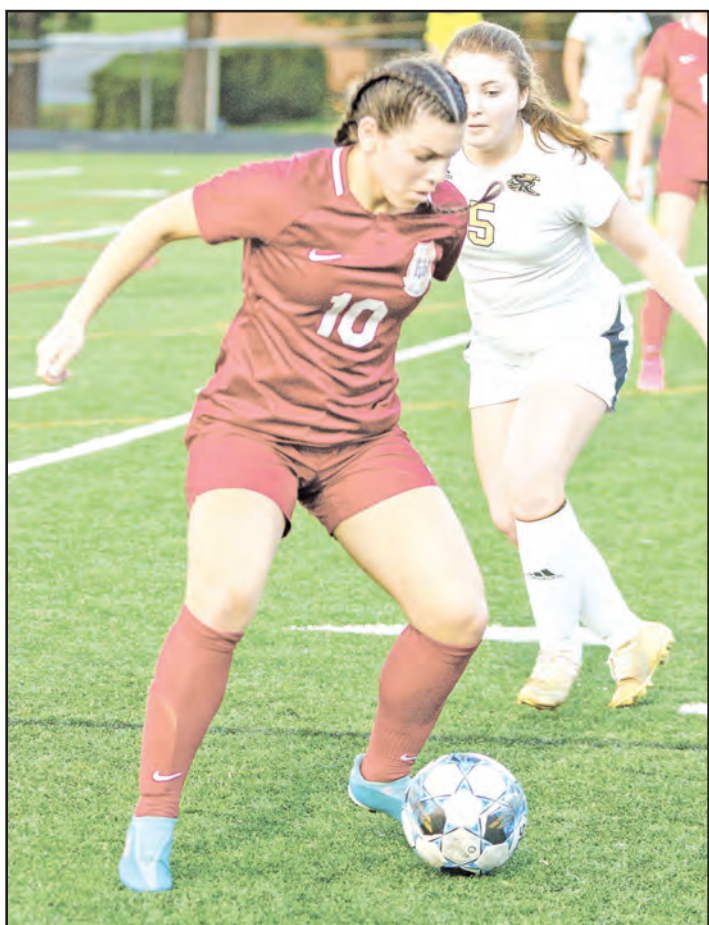
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Byrd girls win BRD soccer opener, remain undefeated



Left, William Byrd's Maddy Simmons(#10) controls the ball in Tuesday's win over Staunton River. Right, Anna Martin(#11) battles an Eagle for the ball.



PHOTOS BY JIM & REGINA DEVINNEY

The William Byrd girls opened their Blue Ridge District soccer season with a win Tuesday. The Terriers beat visiting Staunton River, 3-1, on Jeff Highfill Field at Patterson Stadium.

Byrd kept possession of the ball for the majority of the first half and had several shots on goal, finally breaking through with 26 minutes remaining in the half when Maddy Simmons beat her defender and put it past the keeper for a 1-0 lead. That was how the score remained at the half.

Byrd started strong in the second half and got the second goal of the night 10 minutes in when Logan Andrews crossed the ball to Addi St. Clair for a tap in goal. Then, with 23 minutes remaining, Ella Ashworth took a shot on goal from outside the 18 yard box. It bounced off the keeper and St. Clair was there again to finish for her second goal of the night.

Staunton River scored a late goal but Byrd was able to hold on for the win. Sophia Chrisley had three saves in the cage for the Terriers.

With the win Byrd remained undefeated at 3-0-1. The girls are back in action tonight with a home game against Cave Spring.

Golden Eagles shut out WB boys' soccer

The William Byrd boys dropped a 3-0 decision to Staunton River Tuesday in their first soccer game after returning from spring break. Byrd fell to 1-3 with the loss.

"It's always tough coming off of spring break, but I felt we were playing well and at least moving the ball well," said Byrd coach Russell Dishman.

Midway through the first half the Eagles scored off a long

attempt, just over the midfield line.

"That was a tough one to give up," said Dishman. "And as I thought we were going to settle in, the opposite happened. They scored two more in about seven minutes. It was a difficult run and we struggled to regroup. We just could not get through."

The Terriers are hoping for a better result today when travel to Cave Spring.



William Byrd's Hannah Johnson serves one up.

PHOTO BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

Tennis teams split with Northside

The William Byrd tennis teams returned from the break on Tuesday and played two tight matches with Northside, winning one and getting edged in the other. The girls won 5-4 at Northside and the boys lost 5-4 in Vinton.

The girls got singles wins from

Makenna Jacobsen at one, Ashley Begasse at two, Hannah Johnson at three and Miles Moses at six. The number one doubles team of Jacobsen and Begasse also won, giving Byrd the fifth needed point.

"They all killed it in their matches," said Byrd coach Kayla Mitchell.

Red Sox open season at home tonight

The Salem Red Sox will open the 2023 Carolina League baseball season tonight, Thursday, when they host the Delmarva Shorebirds, a farm team of the Baltimore Orioles, in a three game series. Games are scheduled for 7:05 pm Thursday and Friday with a 6:05 pm game on Saturday, April 8.

Last year's number one overall pick, Jackson Holliday, spent plenty of time in the Baltimore major league camp this spring and impressed Orioles' brass with his advanced tools at just 19 years old. His highly anticipated regular-season debut is expected to come Thursday in Salem. He won't be alone in terms of big names as Miguel Bleis, a potential five-tool outfielder who turned 19 on March 1, is also expected to start for the Salem Sox.

Salem Red Sox Home games include 10 six-game series and two weekend series for a total of 66 contests to be played at Carilion Clinic Field. Tuesday through Friday games at Salem Memorial Ballpark will begin at 7:05 pm with the exception of April 18th, to begin at 6:05 pm, and two day games set for April 19th and June 13th, both slated for 11:05 am. The Red Sox will return to the field on Thursday's as the BeerMongers, a nod to the craft industry, featuring drink specials. Friday games will continue to feature Friday night post-game fireworks.

Saturday games will begin at 6:05 pm and Sunday games will begin at 3:05 pm. Mondays will remain a league-wide off day, with the Carolina League All-Star Break scheduled for July 11-13th. The 2023 season will conclude on Sunday, September 10th, as the Red Sox host the Carolina Mudcats. Gates will continue to open one hour prior to first pitch, with early entry for season ticket holders.

Baseball drops two in Tenn.

Spring break provided a great opportunity for the William Byrd baseball team to get out of town for a couple ballgames, but the Terriers returned to Vinton without a win. Byrd dropped two games last Saturday at Tennessee High in Bristol in the Johnny Whited Memorial Tournament.

With rain in the forecast Byrd's original schedule was revised. The Terriers played two games on Saturday and dropped them both, losing to Tennessee High in the morning and West Ridge High of Tennessee at noon.

The Tennessee High game was a 7-6 loss, as Cooper Minnix and Blake Lovern split time on the mound and held Tennessee to three hits, but walked eight. Ethan Powell had two hits and three runs batted in for Byrd, as the Terriers lost to an unbeaten team on a bloop hit in the bottom of the sixth inning.

Against West Ridge High of Tennessee Byrd dropped an 11-5 decision as Brogan Dent, Keller Spraker and Jacob Dickerson all saw time on the hill. Evan Mullen had two hits and drove in two runs and Noah Thompson had two hits and one RBI. Byrd stranded 14 runners in the loss, dropping to 2-3 on the season.

"We want to develop some players in an event like this, but every game counts in our region so we need to go all out to win every game," said Byrd coach Jason Taylor. "Tennessee had already played a dozen games or so. They're allowed to play more in Tennessee, so they can take a game to develop some players who don't get in as much."

The Terriers were scheduled to host Salem on Tuesday, but results were too late for publication. Byrd will return the diamond next Tuesday, April 11, with a game at Lord Botetourt.



WB Alumni

Two former William Byrd pitchers are toeing the rubber in college these days and pitched in front of some friendly faces in the past week. Above, Trenton Sayers pitched a scoreless inning for Ferrum when the Panthers visited Salem Monday to play Roanoke College at Salem Memorial Ballpark. A freshman, Trenton has seen action on the mound in four games this season. The Maroons won Monday's game, 17-11. Right, former William Byrd coach Gary Walthall traveled to his alma mater, Mars Hill University, to watch his old school play Limestone University in an SAC game. Byrd graduate Gehrig Spradlin pitched to two batters in relief for Limestone in a 17-9 Mars Hill win. Spradlin is a graduate student at Limestone, located in Gaffney, SC.

PHOTOS BY JOHN WACHER & COURTESY OF GARY WALTHALL

